

Estate **ICON**

## Jesse H. Diner

### Philanthropist

Jesse Diner can trace more than three decades of serving the community to one conversation. It was 1974 when an older attorney suggested Jesse volunteer giving free legal advice at a local mall. "I'm really busy," Jesse said. To which the other attorney replied, "You draw from this community. You have an obligation to give something back."

"Ever since then, I've felt that obligation," he said. "Giving back is important to the community, so it's very important to me."

Since then, Jesse has touched countless organizations and lives. For years, Jesse has volunteered with Broward Lawyers Care, taking on cases for people who qualify for free legal aid. Jesse also is past president and staunch supporter of Legal Aid Service of Broward County.

During Jesse's year-long post as President of the Florida Bar Association, which ended in June, he oversaw the launch and traveled the state supporting the Bar's "One Client, One Attorney, One Promise." The goal: To encourage every Florida attorney to take on at least one pro bono case each year.

Among his most lasting accomplishments for Florida's most vulnerable citizens, Jesse revived a Bar effort to achieve consensus on proposed legislation which would have state-paid attorneys provide representation for foster children who otherwise might have no voice in their own dependency case. Working with advocates statewide, Jesse helped forge an agreement on this proposed legislation, and is committed to continue working on getting it passed in the next legislative session.

Jesse's charitable and philanthropic efforts extend beyond pro bono service. He is on the Board of Trustees with Gettysburg College, his alma mater in Pennsylvania. Jesse and his wife and law partner, Adele I. Stone, created the New Beginnings Educational Fund at Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options. The fund provides JAFCO's college-age children a chance to attend college – and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

Jesse and Adele spend what admittedly little free time they have kayaking and fishing in Vermont, cruising the Mediterranean, and visiting North Carolina.

Thinking back to that 1974 conversation, Jesse remains resolute in his purpose: "We all have an obligation to leave this place a little better than the way we found it." **LSM**

